

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Accordingly, the present invention provides a valve plate assembly comprising a valve plate, a reed valve, a cylinder head, and a suction chamber positioned between the valve plate and the cylinder head, the reed valve being such that it comprises a reed, a port which is opened and closed by the reed, and damper means for mechanically damping motion of the reed; the damper means comprising a tube which is attached to the valve plate, which extends vertically into the suction chamber, which is in communication with the port on a side of the port remote from the reed, and which is of such a size that, in use of the valve plate assembly, the tube contains a column of fluid which is sufficient to provide substantial mechanical damping of the motion of the reed.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3 lines 17 – 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to the drawing, there is shown part of a compressor 1 comprising a piston 3 which reciprocates in a cylinder 4 formed in a cylinder block 5. The compressor 1 also comprises a cylinder head 2 and a valve plate 7. The valve plate 7 is attached to the cylinder block 5 by means of mounting bolts

(not shown) and a gasket 8. The valve plate 7 is divided by a baffle 10 into a suction chamber 12 and a discharge chamber 14. As can be seen from the drawing, the suction chamber 12 and the discharge chamber 14 are positioned between the cylinder head 2 and the valve plate 7.